



# The Quebec Association of Retired Teachers

Bulletin January 2021

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*Happy Valentine's day!*



## ROBERT DOBIE REMEMBERED



Robert Dobie's name is listed in the 'in memoriam' section of this bulletin. He passed away this past January 11th. He was such a notable person, that perhaps a few more words about Bob should appear than in the 'in memoriam' citation.

Bob is best known for being the Secretary General of the Provincial Association of Catholic Teachers. As Secretary General, Bob occupied a prominent leadership role in the English Catholic educational community. He was directly responsible for the progress of PACT provincial teacher contract negotiations.

After 1976, Bob, among others, helped lead the English community in its struggle with Bill 101's retroactive restrictions on English student enrollment. For more than a decade that followed, English Catholic teachers would continue to teach so-called 'illegal' students in a fight for these students to maintain their rights to an English education.

Up until his death, Bob was a regular member of QART. Please keep him in your prayers.

## ST. VALENTINE'S DAY DRAWING

Last Christmas, COVID-19 made it impossible for QART to hold its Christmas party. QART decided that it would replace the traditional party with a virtual charity drawing in honour of the holiday. This drawing proved to be a tremendous success; therefore, QART has decided to conduct another drawing.

COVID-19 continues to force us to confine ourselves in our homes. Holding a St. Valentine's Day party is just not possible this year. To replace the St. Valentine's party, QART will hold a special St. Valentine's drawing for its members in good standing.

The drawing will be for boxes of chocolates. There will be ten prizes in all.

Nine of these prizes will be each a 400-gram Gift Box of Chocolates from the Galerie au Chocolat. These boxes are valued at \$19.50 each.

The tenth, a grand prize valued at \$38.50, also from the Galerie au Chocolat, will be a 1-kilogram Gift Tin Mix of Chocolate Almond Bark and Caramel Almond Dreams.

Every member in good standing, whether regular, member-at-large, or honorary, will have an equal chance of winning one of these prizes. As long as you have no outstanding membership fees due, you are automatically entered in the drawing.

The drawing will be conducted on Saturday, February 6th, 2021. The Galerie of Chocolate will deliver the prizes to the winners' homes. Following the drawing, the names of the lucky winners will be posted on our website. A bulletin will also be sent out to each member with the list of winners' names, and with details of our plans for St. Patrick's day.

Good luck to all.

## IN MEMORIAM

**GERRY CALLAHAN**, former teacher at St. Pius X High School

**ROBERT DOBIE**, member of QART and former Secretary General of the Provincial Association of Catholic Teachers

**PATRICIA KOSTIUK**, former teacher at John F. Kennedy High School

**DANIEL LAFONTAINE**, son of QART member CATHY LAFONTAINE

**LYNN O'MALLEY-SENEZ**, former teacher at St. Francis of Assisi School in St. Lambert

**WANDA PYSIAK**, former teacher at John F. Kennedy High School

**CHARLES VAILLANCOURT**, former principal and administrator in the Sault-Saint-Louis School Commission.



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## CORRECTION

In our October 2019 newsletter, we listed

**LINDA KOTOVICH**, member of QART and former teacher at Marymount High School.

This is an error. A Linda Kotovich did pass away and her obituary was published in the Montreal Gazette, but it was not the Linda Kotovich who taught at Marymount and who continues to be alive and well. We regret and apologize for this error.

## CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED TEACHERS (ACER-CART)

QART is a member of ACER-CART. The following letter from ACER-CART president, Gerry Tiede, to the Honourable Deb Schulte, Minister of Seniors, in the Government of Canada, illustrates some of ACER-CART's priorities in its on-going consultation with the federal government.



Association canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants retraités  
Canadian Association of Retired Teachers

January 22, 2021

The Honourable Deb Schulte  
Minister of Seniors  
Government of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Schulte,

L'Association canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants retraités, The Canadian Association of Retired Teachers (ACER-CART) represents 170,000 members who have come together to focus on issues that affect the wellbeing of seniors across Canada.

We have been heartened to read the Supplementary Mandate letter of January 15, 2021, that you received from Prime Minister Trudeau. He specifically itemized issues that are of great concern to our membership:

- Support for elder abuse prevention
- Aid for seniors to age in place and remain in their homes longer
- National standards for long-term care
- Access to a primary health care team including a Doctor
- Increased services to tackle mental health and substance abuse issues
- A national, universal pharmacare program

As an Association of seniors, we individually have direct experience with the problems that are caused by the deficiencies that each item identifies.

As an Association we support your personal, and your government's commitment to delivering on actions that will relieve these health pressures and challenges that seniors in Canada face daily. We stand ready to support and help you fulfill this mandate.

Gerry Tiede,  
President

cc. Prime Minister Trudeau  
cc: ACER-CART Executive Committee  
ACER-CART Board of Directors

Président **Gerry Tiede**, President, ACER-CART  
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